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**“HILLTOP HUSTLER” WITH FIREARMS ARSENAL SENTENCED**

**JASON GALE POSSESSED FOUR LOADED,  
SEMI-AUTOMATIC FIREARMS AND CRACK COCAINE**

WILMINGTON, DE – David C. Weiss, United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, and David L. McCain, the Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Baltimore Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) Field Office announced today that the Hon. Joseph J. Farnan, Jr., imposed a 192-month sentence on Jason Gale. The sentence imposed was almost five years above the top of the recommended sentencing Guidelines range.

Gale, a 29 year-old Wilmington resident who has a tattoo inscribed “Hilltop Hustler,” was arrested by Wilmington Police Detectives in April 2009 as part of the Operation FED-UP Program. According to facts recounted at prior court proceedings, Wilmington Police Detectives executed a search warrant at Gale’s residence on Union Street. During the search, Wilmington Detectives found four loaded, semi-automatic firearms. Two of the firearms had obliterated serial numbers. Officers also discovered over 100 rounds of various types of ammunition in the residence. In the kitchen of the residence, officers further uncovered one ounce of crack cocaine and drug paraphernalia. One of Gale’s firearms, a Smith and Wesson loaded, semi-automatic handgun, was discovered approximately ten inches from the crack cocaine.

Gale eventually pleaded guilty to four counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and one count of possession with intent to distribute five grams of more of crack cocaine.

In imposing the above-Guidelines prison sentence, the Court focused on the defendant’s history of drug dealing and violence, and explained that a lengthy prison sentence was necessary to punish the defendant, protect the public, and deter the defendant from future criminal activity.

United States Attorney David C. Weiss said of the case: "The United States Attorney's Office is committed to prosecuting violent drug offenders who possess firearms, particularly when those offenders are repeat felons. The length of the prison sentence in this case demonstrates that the Operation FED-UP program is making a difference in taking career criminals off the streets of Wilmington."

"A repeat violent offender who illegally possesses firearms does not belong on the streets of Wilmington," says ATF's Acting Special Agent in Charge David L. McCain. "We are proud to be a part of 'Operation FED-UP'- a program that banishes these dangerous criminals from our communities, and introduces them to federal jail time."

The case was investigated by the ATF and the Wilmington Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Robert F. Kravetz is prosecuting the case for the United States Attorney's Office.

For further information, contact United States Attorney David C. Weiss or Assistant United States Attorney Robert F. Kravetz.

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